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1. In an electronic device having a database of records of different categories, a method of displaying information comprising the steps of:

a) receiving an indication from a user that selects a first category type of said different category types;

b) indexing a table with said first category type to obtain a first sort field for said first category type, said table associating each category type of said different categories with its own sort field, wherein a sort field for each category type is under user control and wherein said first category type has a sort field different from that of another category type;

c) sorting records of said first category type into an order that is determined according to said first sort field to produce a first list; and

d) displaying a portion of said records in said order on a display screen of said electronic device, wherein said portion displayed is formatted automatically with information from said sort field on the left-hand side of said display screen as viewed by said user,

wherein by selecting said sort field said user controls said order in which said records are displayed.

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8. In hand-held personal digital assistant having an address database of contact records of different categories, a method of displaying information comprising the steps of:

a) receiving an indication from a user that selects a first category type of said different category types;

b) indexing a table with said first category type to obtain a first sort field for said first category type, said table associating each category type of said different categories with its own sort field, wherein a sort field for each

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category type is under user control and wherein said first category type has a sort field different from that of another category type;

c) sorting contact records of said first category type into an order that is determined according to said first sort field to produce a first list; and

d) displaying a portion of said contact records in said order on a display screen of said electronic device, wherein said portion displayed is formatted automatically with information from said sort field on the left-hand side of said display screen as viewed by said user,

wherein by selecting said sort field said user controls said order in which said contact records are displayed.

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15. An electronic device comprising a processor coupled to a bus, a display coupled to said bus and a memory coupled to said bus, said memory having a database of records of different categories and instructions implementing a method of displaying information comprising the steps of:

a) receiving an indication from a user that selects a first category type of said different category types;

b) indexing a table with said first category type to obtain a first sort field for said first category type, said table associating each category type of said different categories with its own sort field, wherein a sort field for each category type is under user control and wherein said first category type has a sort field different from that of another category type;

c) sorting contact records of said first category type into an order that is determined according to said first sort field to produce a first list; and

d) displaying a portion of said contact records in said order on said display screen, wherein said portion displayed is formatted automatically

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with information from said sort field on the left-hand side of said display screen as viewed by said user,

wherein by selecting said sort field said user controls said order in which said records are displayed.

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